

Mayor and City Council

Mayor Bill Saffo

Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret E. Haynes

Council Members Neil Anderson Clifford D. Barnett, Sr. Kevin O'Grady Charlie Rivenbark **Kevin Spears**

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PROCLAMATION DISSOLVING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON

The tragic death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25th of this year has sparked protests and mourning across our entire nation. Peaceful protests and demonstrations are core First Amendment values of our Democracy and are both appropriate and rightly supported.

The protests that have occurred in our City of Wilmington have largely been peaceful and proper. However, at times and in certain places, appropriate peaceful protests have been followed by civil unrest and accompanying violence. Our nation and state have witnessed physical violence against innocent bystanders and law enforcement officers, damage to property and looting, gunfire, and buildings have been set on fire with arsonist intent. While the peaceful protests are proper, the violent civil unrest that has followed some of them is criminal and a grave danger to the public.

As Mayor of the City of Wilmington, I am authorized to declare a state of emergency pursuant to Section 6-17 of the Wilmington City Code. I did so on Monday, June 1st at 11:30 pm, and then issued an amended state of emergency on Tuesday, June 2nd at 2:45 pm, which was renewed on Sunday, June 7, 2020 and is still in effect.

Although recent events showed that some individuals were seeking to incite criminal and civil unrest, and their actions posed an imminent threat of severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property to the City of Wilmington, current criminal intelligence makes it reasonable to believe that there is no longer an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage or injury to persons or property or to the overall safety and welfare of our community.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 6-17 of the City Code, I have determined that the June 7th state of emergency (which is separate and distinct from the state of emergency that is due the COVID-19 pandemic) is no longer necessary in the City of Wilmington, and that the restrictions contained in that June 7th state of emergency are no longer necessary to properly address the dangers faced by our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Saffo, Mayor of the City of Wilmington, do hereby proclaim that the state of emergency issued on June 7, 2020, relating to criminal and civil unrest in the City of Wilmington is hereby dissolved, and all directives and prohibitions in that state of emergency proclamation are hereby lifted.

This proclamation shall be effective immediately.

Proclaimed at 2:00 AM / (PM) on this the 9th day of June, 2020.

Bill Saffo, Mayor

City Clerk

